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PRESS RELEASE

Colm F. Connolly, United States Attorney for the District of Delaware, announced today that Florinda Curtis, age 42 of Townsend, Delaware, entered a guilty plea in U.S. District Court, before the Honorable Gregory M Sleet, to one count of Aiding a False Return, punishable by a maximum three years imprisonment and \$250,000 fine.

The charge was based on Curtis' preparation for an acquaintance of a tax return which was falsified in that it fabricated deductions and inflated business expenses, resulting in a requested refund of \$1,540, whereas the taxpayer actually owed taxes of \$3,094. At the hearing the prosecutor explained that Curtis' offense was motivated by her intention to keep for herself a portion of the unlawful refund. Pursuant to the plea agreement, Curtis agreed to make restitution of \$14,453 for those refunds paid by the IRS on the 12 such false returns listed in the indictment.

"While most return preparers provide excellent service to their clients, a few unscrupulous tax preparers file false and fraudulent returns to defraud returns to defraud the government, the tax paying public and their own clients." said Rick A. Raven, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation.

The case was investigated by the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service, Wilmington, Delaware.

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